

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 21. 1711.

I Am no Enthusiastick, nor do I pretend to Encourage the Notions of People having the Gift of Propheſie; but I cannot but think it ſomething odd, when peruſing a little Book which I found at *Newcaſtle*, as I came laſt up from *Scotland*, and is Sold but for two-pence — Entitled *British Viſions, or Twelve new Propheſies for the Year 1711*. I found it expreſſly ſaid there in the Third Propheſie, viz. for the Month of *March* — That the *Dauphin of France* ſhould die at that Time.

If the Author of thoſe Propheſies, or whatever we ſhall call them, is as right in other Things he has undertaken to Predict,

we ſhall have a Dreadful Summer all over *Europe*; and tho' I have given as little heed to theſe Things as any Body, yet I could not but be a little ſtartled, when I heard, the *Dauphin* died the 13th of *April*, which is within two Days of the Month there foretold.

The Author of this Book, who calls himſelf by the late ſo much borrow'd Name of *Iſaac Bickerſtaff*, is ſaid to be above 100 Year Old, and has ſaid many ſtrange Things in the World, but that I have nothing to do with; in this not much known Book, he tells us, or rather foretells us, ſeveral ſtrange Things, which I muſt own I never gave

gave any heed to, till this of the Death of the Dauphin came to pass — But since this has so directly fulfil'd his Prediction, I cannot but hint at the rest; that if such a kind of warning to Mankind may be of any Signification, they may make what use of it they think fit.

1. He tells us, this Year shall be a Year of Wonders — That the dark Counsels of Men shall Embroil the World, and that in this Nation, the Heats and Animosities of Parties shall greatly Encourage our Enemies, and Discourage good Men — That Ecclesiastick Disputes shall Embroil this Island, and those Men who regard neither God nor Devil, shall make the greatest stir about Religion — pag. 5, 6.

2. He tells us in *March*, or his third Prophecie — That the Dauphin of France dies, the Pope shall be sick, and the War shall begin in Poland and Muscovy.

I must own, I think, these two Predictions are Literally come to pass, which makes me take so much Notice of this little Trifling Book, and very strange it is.

3. He tells us farther, Philip V. of Spain, and also King Ch — III. shall both die before their Quarrel is Decided — And leave their Game at Chess, to be play'd out by Posterity — He says, Philip before he dies, shall fight three Battles with the Confederates, and be Victor in two of them, but dies in *May*.

If this should be as true as what he has said already of the Dauphin — For my part, I shall not tell what to say of the Man — The Event must determine.

4. He tells us, The Swedes by Transporting Troops from Sweden to Pomerania, shall carry the Plague into Germany, and that from thence it shall spread into all the Corners of Europe, England not excepted.

5. He says positively, King Philip shall not Besiege, but shall Bombard *Barcelona*; but that Relief coming to King Charles, he shall Chase them again in his Turn.

6. He says positively, The Danes shall make another Attempt upon *Schonen*, and being Beaten as they were before, shall bring back Poverty and the Plague — Which shall make Havock, even in the Royal Family there.

7. He says, the Elector of *Bavaria* shall be restor'd to his Dominions by the Swede, but shall die of the Plague.

8. He says the King of Sweden shall, by *May*, be in full March, entering Poland, and perhaps Germany; but his Army consisting of many Nations, shall waste away without much Fighting.

He says, in short, so many strange Things, and the first are so strangely come to pass, that a Man would be almost tempted to say of him, That certainly, either he has dealt with the D—l, or the D—l has dealt very much with him — And indeed, if many more of his Positives should come to pass, as these have done — I shall not know what to say or think concerning him; mean Time, I must own — I am laying up these Things in my Heart, for they are very remarkable —.

Note — That since I wrote the above, I am told the Book is in Town, and the Publisher of this Paper desires me to say he has it to Sell.

Before I leave this odd kind of Book, give me leave to quote a very strange Paragraph in him; when he speaks of the Plague spreading in Europe, he has these Words, Prophecie 5, 6. for *May* and *June*.

' Now Europe begins to Tremble, the
' People find Employment different
' from the War, and the living have
' Work enough to bury their Dead —
' Shall Britain be free? Flatter not
' your selves with Expectations of
' it;

' it; many Plagues Visit this Nation,
' and whole Parties of Men suffer the
' Infection: — All sorts of Men
' shall die, some Politickly, some Re-
' ally; the Grave makes no distinc-
' tion of *Whig* or *Tory*, High or Low
' Church — Three Bishops go off
' the Stage first, Du — s, Ea — s,
' Bar — s, and Privy Coun — s fol-
' low; a great Rot falls among the
' Court Sheep, and the Murrain upon
' the Stallions of this *Sodomitish* City —
' But the Shepherds flee, and leave
' their Flocks to be scatter'd —
' Yet for all these Terrors, Men shall
' not Repent or abate their Divisions,
' their Animosities, their Wars, and
' pursuit of Blood over the Earth.

If this is not a strange Fellow — You may
all Judge, and if you read it, you will say
so much more — I shall only add one
Thing more, and leave this North Coun-
try Prophet, for they say he came out of
the Hills in *Scotland* — And this one Thing
is all the good he foretells, which really
seems to promise also a fulfilling, *viz.* Plenty
of Corn; his Words are these.

' Yet for the Encouragement and Sup-
' port of the Poor, Heaven promises
' Plenty in the Fields, and there shall
' be no want of Bread — Food shall
' Encrease, tho' not the Mouths that
' feed on it, and what the Sword or o-
' ther Plagues shall Devour, shall leave
' Room for those that remain, to live
' with more Abundance — A
' Rich Plentiful Harvest in *Britain*,
' makes the Hearts of the Country glad
' — A great Encrease and a good
' Market, revives our Commerce —
' But we have many Losses Abroad,
' and dreadful Diseases at Home, af-
' fecting the Bodies and Minds of the
' People.

I conclude my speaking of him, only
with this, That he says, in *August*, a Ter-
rible Battle shall be fought between the
Turks and the *Muscovites*, in which, Victo-

ry mocks both Sides, both pretend to it —
That the *Turks* lose most Men, yet are stron-
est in the Field again.

Enough of Prophecy; God grant this
new appearing Prophet may prove a De-
ceiver — But how he should foretell so
exactly the Death of the Dauphin of
France, is to me, I confess, unaccountable;
that Prince having never appear'd Sickly,
Disorder'd, or in the least Danger —
And as to being newly Publish'd — That
I can disprove, for I have had one of the
Books by me near six Months, from this
Time — Others may think of it as they
please — But if the rest of his Book
should be true, they will find this hint of
it much more Useful than they now ima-
gine.

I confess, to me, the approaching Sum-
mer seems to Threaten us with uncommon
Events; the Eagerness of the Nations in
the pursuit of the War, is Unaccountable;
the Distraction Universal, the Preparation
Prodigious, the Numbers of Men that have
Weapons put into their Hands to destroy
one another with, innumerable —
And the Temper of the World, at this
Time, whether Abroad or at Home, seems
to have something of Inveteracy and unso-
cial Fermentation in it — No Inclina-
tion to Peace, no View of Accommodation,
no desire of a Mediation of Breaches; Hea-
ven seems to have given Men up to Na-
tional Frenzies, biting, devouring, and de-
stroying one another — The healing Spirit
of Charity, Love, Peace, and mutual So-
ciety, seems fled from the World; Chri-
stians flee to *Turks*, to Engage them to fight
against, and destroy Christians; and such
general Irreconcilable Animosities are
spread over *Europe*, that it seems as if the
latter Days were come, *Nation shall rise up
against Nation*, and every Man's Hand is a-
gainst his Neighbour, and where it will
End, who knows?

I cannot close this *Review*, without ad-
ding a Paragraph of a Letter I just now
receiv'd out of the North, on the same Sub-
ject, and relating to this Book — The
Words are these.

What

What think you now of the Book of Prophecies I gave you? I doubt not but you will be startled, when you hear of the Dauphin of France being Dead; which he positively Names—But you will be more startled when I shall tell you, That in the Original Manuscript, which I have by me, and shall shew you, if I live to see you in Scotland, it was also expressly said, the Emperor should die in the Month of April; but the Publishers fearing they might be brought into some Danger, refus'd to so Print that Paragraph—This I assure you, startles me very much, since we have Advice by this Post, that the

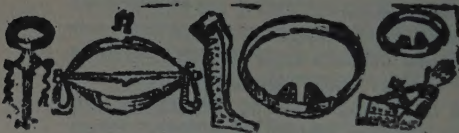
Emperor is Sick— And I am persuaded upon this Prophecie that he will die.

This is very odd also—The last Post bringing an Account that the Emperor is Dead— And the same Book says expressly;

This Year is fatal to Crown'd Heads.

I shall say no more, I desire to lay no more Weight upon these Things than they will bear; but when Things of this Nature are foretold, and do actually come to pass, without doubt it makes more regard be given to them, than otherwise would be.

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